

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 3-5, 7-8, 10, 12-13, 15, 17-18, 21-23, 25-26, 28, 30-31, 33, 35-36 and 41 are amended and the abstract has been added.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:EDM/emt
Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Date: July 6, 2004

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Abstract

A method and apparatus is disclosed for producing precision marks 28 for a metrological scale in the form of a stainless steel ribbon 10. A laser 21 is used to produce ultra-short pulses which have a fluence at the ribbon such that ablation takes place. The laser light can be scanned via scanner 25 and the pitch of the marks 28 can be controller. The ablative technique causes little thermal input and improve the accuracy of the scale.